



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

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Beatrice Man Sentenced to 160 Years for Robbery, Weapon Possession, and Burglary

Note: A sound bite on this topic is available at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced William A. Epp, 49, of Beatrice, was sentenced to 160 years in prison.

The Gage County District Court sentenced Epp to 60 years for robbery and 60 years for possession of a firearm by a felon.

“Mr. Epp has a history of violence. It was important to get him off the streets,” said Bruning. “This sentence not only serves the interest of justice but protects society from a dangerous man.”

On the evening of April 24, 2007, Epp went into a convenience store in Wymore, displayed what appeared to be a gun, threatened three people and walked off with just over \$300.

Epp was found guilty of robbery and possession of a firearm by a felon in January.

Epp was also found to be a habitual criminal which means he was previously convicted of a felony on two occasions (1978 – Second-degree murder, 1983 – Escape).

For Epp, as a habitual criminal, both charges (robbery and possession of a firearm by a felon) carried a more stringent sentence - a minimum of 10 years to a maximum of 60 years in prison. Robbery is a Class II felony. Possession of a firearm by a felon is a Class III felony.

In another case, Epp was also sentenced as a habitual criminal to 40-60 years for a burglary that occurred in Plymouth, Nebraska in May of 2007.

All three sentences will run consecutively.

Assistant Attorneys General Doug Warner and Jeff Gaertig handled the cases along with Gage County Attorney Randy Ritnour and Jefferson County Attorney Linda Bauer.

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